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Virginia Historical Society,

RICHMOND, VA., July 20, 1881.

DEAR SIR:

The work was undertaken by the VIRGINIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY to gather up and preserve the memorials of this the most ancient of the American commonwealths, and this work it has endeavored faithfully to perform. The career of the Society prior to the war was very prosperous, but through the calamities incident to that struggle its arrangements were so broken up that until quite lately it was unable to secure a lodgment for its collection that was deemed either safe or accessible. Through the great courtesy of the Westmoreland Club, of this city, ample accommodations have been provided in their Club House, at the corner of Sixth and Grace streets, and the books and papers properly arranged for reference.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held the 25th ultimo, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That this Society being now safely lodged and ready to undertake the offices germane to such an organization, the Corresponding Secretary is hereby authorized to institute such arrangements as may be necessary to properly present to the consideration of the people of the State the claims of the Society, looking to the increase of its membership and the promotion of its efficiency.

The Society, to reach the full measure of its usefulness, should enjoy a membership covering every county in the State, and Virginians and lovers of Virginia elsewhere, and the effort is now made to bring about this most desirable result. The undersigned accordingly solicits the honor of presenting your name for election and requests that you will recommend to the Society the names of such gentlemen in your city or county as, in your judgment, should form part of its membership. We cannot be indifferent to our past if we would stand with credit in the future. The annual fee of a regular member is $5; no entrance fee. Life membership, $50.

The following resolution was also adopted, to wit:

Resolved, That in view of the fact that a large number of visitors from all portions of this country and abroad will doubtless honor the Society with their presence during the progress of the Centennial celebration at Yorktown, the Corresponding Secretary be, and he is hereby, authorized to confer with persons throughout the State with a view to securing such deposits with the Society of manuscripts, portraits, memorials, and other objects bearing upon and representative of the history of Virginia, as their owners may be willing to so lodge.

The house in which the Society is located is strongly built and completely isolated. The flues have been thoroughly tested by many years use; in fact, it is deemed to be practically fire-proof. Under these circumstances, the Executive Committee do not hesitate to invite the deposit with the Society of the property mentioned in the resolution above, and they ask this kindness at your hands, and also any information you may be pleased to venture concerning the existence of such relics in the possession of your friends and neighbors or elsewhere in the county in which you live. It is, as will be obvious to you, every way desirable that the Society should this Centennial year be able to present the fullest exhibit possible in this behalf. It is hardly necessary to urge that these deposits will be held sacred by the Society.

The Society derives its income solely from the dues of its members. The aim of the Executive Committee will be, from this time forward, to issue annually a volume of historical material of value, for free distribution to its members, the letters of Governor SPOTSWOOD, properly edited and in handsome form, to be published the current year. The collection of original documents in the possession of the Society has been largely increased of late through the good offices of our fellow-member, Mr. CORCORAN, of Washington City; he has presented to it the "Dinwiddie Papers." It is hoped, therefore, that the membership will reach such a figure as to render the accomplishment of the work of publication absolutely certain.

I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,

R. A. BROCK,

Corresponding Secretary and Librarian.

To Lt. Stephenson Esq

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THE organization of the Virginia Historical Society is as follows, to wit:

President, Hon. ALEXANDER H. H. STUART, Staunton, Va.,
1st Vice-President, CONWAY ROBINSON, Washington, D. C.,
2d " WM. W. CORCORAN, Washington, D. C.,
3d " WM. WIRT HENRY, Richmond, Va.,
Corresp'g Sec'y and Librarian, R. A. BROCK, Richmond, Va.,
Recording Secretary, GEORGE A. BARKSDALE, Richmond, Va.,
Treasurer, R. T. BROOKE, Richmond, Va.;

who, in conjunction with the following-named gentlemen, form the Executive Committee:

Hon. BEVERLEY R. WELLFORD, JR., Richmond, Va.,
HENRY COALTER CAMPBELL, Richmond, Va.,
CHARLES G. BARNEY, M. D., Richmond, Va.,
Hon. ANTHONY M. KEILEY, Richmond, Va.,
ARCHER ANDERSON, A. M., Richmond, Va.,
WILLIAM P. PALMER, M. D., Richmond, Va.,
WILLIAM A. MAURY, LL. D., Washington, D. C.,
J. L. M. CURRY, D. D., LL. D., Richmond, Va.,
JOHN OTT, Richmond, Va.,
JOHN WARWICK DANIEL, Lynchburg, Va.,
Hon. JOHN L. MARYE, JR., Fredericksburg, Va.,
BOLIVAR CHRISTIAN, Lexington, Va.,
EDWARD V. VALENTINE, Richmond, Va.

MEMORANDUM

The chief desire of the Executive Committee of the Virginia Historical Society is to [illegible] *distribution to the members* of the Historical Society [illegible] the United States [illegible] Great Britain [illegible] able original historical material in the possession of the Society. With a large membership this can certainly be accomplished, [illegible] of annual dues not greater than is now required. The annual dues of a regular member is $5, [illegible]. Life membership, $50.

E. A. BROCK,

Corresponding Secretary.

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